

the related goals of improved global public health and increased global trade.

The Global TRUTH Act also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare an annual "Global Public Health Assessment", modeled on the State Department's country-by-country human rights reports. The purpose of the assessment is to report to Congress on the status of compliance with and observance of the International Health Regulations in each country that is a member of the World Health Organization.

The Global TRUTH Act is an important tool in the improvement of global public health standards and the ever-growing international marketplace. Louis Pasteur famously said, "Chance favors the prepared mind." Early detection is critical to the success of our Nation's avian flu preparedness plans. By working simultaneously to decrease global public health risks and remove a potential roadblock from international trade, the Act will ensure that international trade decisions are not made at the expense of public health, thus allowing for safer trade and a safer, healthier global community.

INTRODUCTION OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE NSA EAVESDROPPING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 months since this Congress became aware of the NSA's secret surveillance activities, yet no Committee has held thorough and independent investigations into the program.

Before we legislate on this issue and give the Executive unprecedented and sweeping new authorities to conduct surveillance on Americans not suspected of terrorist activity, we must understand the true nature of the program, how effective it is, and whether it is even constitutional.

To that end, I am introducing the attached bill that will create an independent commission, evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate, to answer such questions.

I hope that my colleagues will put politics aside and do what we did in the 1970s when we found out that the Nixon administration was wiretapping Americans without warrants: conduct a thorough and independent investigation of all the relevant facts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month because of official business in Colorado I was not able to be present for three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 82, H.J. Res. 81—Providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 83, H. Res. 703—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 84, H. Res. 744—Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland and support for continued police reform in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process—I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF MATTHEW LYON POST OFFICE NAMING BILL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill that would name the United States Post Office in Fair Haven, Vermont, in honor of Matthew Lyon, one of our nation's early defenders of the First Amendment, a former member of the Vermont House of Representatives, and Vermont's fourth Representative to the United States Congress. Matthew Lyon is also recognized as the founder of Fair Haven, Vermont.

Matthew Lyon plays an important role in the history of our country. He was the first person to be tried and convicted under the repressive 1798 Sedition Act. The Sedition Act was sweeping legislation passed during a period when America was engaged in hostilities with France. The purpose of the legislation was to punish Americans who opposed President John Adams' foreign policy toward France. This legislation was unquestionably a direct attack on rights explicitly protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Matthew Lyon's only crime was writing a letter to the editor critical of President Adams' foreign policy towards France and submitting another person's similar writings to a local newspaper that published them. Solely for expressing his views and exercising his First Amendment rights, Matthew Lyon was sentenced to four months in jail, required to pay the cost of his prosecution, and fined \$1,000. He was, however, subsequently pardoned by President Thomas Jefferson.

At a time when we find ourselves struggling to balance the security of our nation with the liberties we cherish, I can think of no better time to honor one of our nation's champions of the First Amendment's right of free speech. Naming the Fair Haven Post Office in honor of Matthew Lyon would be a fitting tribute to him and his fight for liberty, and would serve as a reminder of Fair Haven's connection to this great American patriot. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Government Reform Committee to move this bill through committee and onto the House Floor.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens. Financial literacy has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes. Expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth.

A March 2005 GAG report entitled Credit Reporting Literacy found that educational efforts could potentially increase consumers' understanding of the credit reporting process and those efforts should target those areas in which consumers' knowledge was weakest and those subpopulations that did not score as well on GAG's survey, including those with less education, lower incomes, and less experience obtaining credit. Public, consumer, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals. In February 2005, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT (R-IL) and I co-founded, and currently co-chair, the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, FELC, to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to work in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, (2) highlight public and private sector best practices, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as Financial Literacy Month in April 2006 and the annual Financial Literacy Day fair on April 25, 2006. The Caucus has been a success.

I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters in support of a bill Congresswoman BIGGERT and I co-sponsored and that passed the House: H. Res. 737, a bill Recognizing the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month that falls in April of each year. The bill was reported to the House favorably by the Committee on Government Reform and passed the House on April 6, 2006 by a recorded vote of 423-1. The documents I am submitting today include letters of support for H. Res. 737 from the Federal Trade Commission and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. I am also submitting for the RECORD three letters in support of Financial Literacy Month. They include a letter from the President, George W. Bush, Rick Perry, Governor of the State of Texas, and the Southeast Regional Financial Education Center.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,
Washington, DC

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: Thank you for co-sponsoring House Resolution 737, designating April 2006 as "Financial Literacy Month" to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States, and calling on various public and private entities to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Measures such as this help boost consumer education programs the Federal Trade Commission has developed for fostering a national "culture of financial smarts," where all individuals can take steps towards personal financial stability and contribute to a healthy national economy. Along these lines, the FTC's Office of Congressional Relations wanted to share with you new resources launched for Financial Literacy Month that are available for supporting your outreach programs.

Enclosed please find the FTC's "Focus on Finances" booklet, which we have modified from a newspaper supplement that ran in The Washington Times. As you will see, the booklet serves as a guide for young adults, entering a new phase in their lives in facing new financial challenges and opportunities. From new college students to graduates entering the work force, this guide focuses on issues that all consumers are faced with: credit, budgeting, debt, and identity theft.

We hope you will agree this booklet will be a valuable tool for distribution via district offices or as handouts at community events. The publication can be printed out via the FTC's Web site at www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/misc/nie0406.pdf, or you can contact me, Derick Rill, at my e-mail address—drill@ftc.gov, or via phone at 202-326-3007.

Beyond the FTC's Focus on Finances booklet, the FTC has a wide range of consumer education resources we think you will agree can serve to help your constituents, and we are happy to discuss with your staff ideas for newsletter items, Web site assistance areas, town hall events and more. See the reverse side of this document for details.

Thank you again for being a part of Financial Literacy Month and please let us know how we can best help your office reach the goals that your resolution set stressing the importance of financial education for all Americans. We look forward to working with you in the future. Please call us at FTC anytime we can be of service.

Sincerely,

DERICK RILL,
Congressional Outreach Specialist.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS,
April 14, 2006.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RUBIN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT AND CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: On behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), we write to commend your leadership and commitment to financial and economic literacy. The NAIC shares and embraces the goals of H. Res. 737, a Resolution Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and offers our support for your continued efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States.

On March 28, the NAIC launched a comprehensive public education program to assist consumers with information about insurance issues. Under the banner of Insure U, the campaign has two objectives: to help consumers get smart about insurance as

their needs change at different life stages, and to educate them about how to avoid being scammed by fake insurance companies. The program includes an online education site and public service announcements in English and Spanish.

The Insure U curriculum, available at www.insureUonline.org, includes a basic introduction to the four major types of insurance—auto, home, life and health—as well as special considerations for young singles, young families, established families and empty nesters/seniors. The public service announcement encourages consumers to call their state insurance department prior to purchasing an insurance policy to confirm that they are dealing with a real insurance company authorized to do business in their state.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and commitment to financial and economic literacy. The NAIC is committed to working with you, other members of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, and all Members of the House and Senate through events during Financial Literacy Month and year round.

Sincerely,

ALESSANDRO IUPPA,
Maine Superintendent
of Insurance, NAIC
President.

CATHERINE J.
WEATHERFORD,
NAIC Executive Vice
President and CEO.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington DC, March 23, 2006.

I send greetings to all those observing Financial Literacy Month this April.

The American economy is the envy of the world because of the talent of the American people. Our economy grows when individuals are allowed to make their own decisions about how to save, spend, and invest their money and are given the freedom to make a better life for themselves and their family.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in helping citizens gain the knowledge and tools they need to compete and succeed in the 21st century. The Financial Literacy and Education Commission, created in 2003, was tasked with developing a plan to improve the money management skills of our citizens. Through the launch of "Taking Ownership of the Future: The National Strategy for Financial Literacy," the Commission is hoping to prepare people for the opportunities of life in a free society, enable them to make informed decisions about their financial futures, and help consumers protect their credit and good name.

My Administration remains committed to expanding economic opportunities and fostering an environment that encourages growth and vitality. By creating an ownership society, where more Americans own their own homes and businesses and control their own retirement savings and health insurance, we can achieve a great national goal and make our country a place where the dignity and security of financial independence are within reach for all Americans.

I appreciate Secretary Snow, members of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, and all those working to make every citizen an agent of his or her own destiny. Your work reflects our trust in the American people and makes our society more prosperous and just.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

Sound financial management is important to ensuring that Texans are well-positioned to meet their needs now and in the future.

From saving and investing to making wise credit decisions, a better understanding of financial management and planning fosters long-term financial security.

At home, at school, and elsewhere in our communities, and at an early age, we must educate young Texans on these important issues. Not only does financial literacy education help to ensure that young Texans mature into responsible adults, it also contributes to economic success and prosperity for our great state into the future.

During the month of April, an awareness campaign will be conducted to highlight the importance of financial literacy among young Texans.

At this time, therefore, I encourage Texans of all ages to recognize the importance of saving, investing and having financial goals. Together we can continue to make a difference for the future.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2006, Youth Financial Literacy Month.

RICK PERRY,
Governor of Texas.

APRIL IS NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR
YOUTH MONTH

RALEIGH, N.C.—Governor Mike Easley has declared April 2006 as Financial Literacy for Youth Month in North Carolina. Financial literacy programs are being launched across the nation to heighten the awareness and need to provide financial education to young people. The JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy national biennial survey of financial literacy released 2006 test results on April 5th in Washington, DC. The average score for the 2005-06 survey was 52.4%, up marginally from 52.3% in the 2003-04 survey. This year, North Carolina joined the ranks by surveying 254 high school seniors in 13 schools across the state. Test scores were below the national average at 48.2%.

SERFEC will commemorate Financial Literacy for Youth Month with a full-day event for the freshman class on the campus of Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC on Thursday, April 20th. The kickoff for the event will feature concurrent workshops on: It Just Makes Cents: Budgeting Basics; The World of Banking; The Credit Trap: Using Credit Wisely; and What's Your Whip: Helpful Tips on Vehicle Financing. William "Bill" Cheeks, President of ABBA Associates, Powder Springs, GA and Midwest/Eastern States Regional Coordinator for the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy will serve as the guest luncheon speaker. During the afternoon Real World Event, a virtual life skills simulation, students will be challenged to develop a monthly budget based on various educational and employment levels, while ensuring everyday needs and situational crises are met. Corporate sponsors for this power-packed event include Branch Bank & Trust, Citigroup, Citifinancial, GMAC, and the Federal Reserve Bank.

SERFEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide K-12 and college freshmen throughout the southeast region with a working knowledge of basic personal finance. SERFEC is principled on the Japanese maxim: "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I'll remember. Involve me, and I'll be changed forever." According to Angela Towns, Chief Executive Officer, "Teaching youth basic money management skills is a misnomer. We can tell youth about money and even show them how money works—but until we involve them in the practical application of basic personal finance, we will miss the opportunity for economic growth, economic empowerment, and economic change in the lives of our young

people, their families, and their communities.”

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Earlier this week, concerned citizens throughout the world solemnly remembered the history of the Holocaust and recognized the victims and those who survived this tragedy. Upon this one day, we remember those that suffered, those that fought, and those that died. Six million Jews were murdered. Many families were completely decimated.

Between September 1, 1939, when Nazi troops invaded Poland, and Germany's surrender on May 8, 1945, Hitler waged two wars. One was against Allied forces on three continents. The other was against the Jews in the form of the Holocaust.

In the years since, descendants of Jewish immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this Nation and throughout the world. In my district, there is a significant population of Jewish survivors and their families that showed heroic bravery and a will to live.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to imagine an evil more powerful than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. By honoring the Holocaust Remembrance Day, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities, and therefore we ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are properly understood and acknowledged. As it has been over 60 years since the Holocaust, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

IN HONOR OF DR. WALTER CARL
GORDON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great doctor who has devoted his life to serving his countrymen—Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr.

At the age of 78, Dr. Gordon is retiring after nearly 40 years practicing medicine. He has served his community and his country throughout his entire life, all the while blazing new trails for those who would follow him.

Born on October 25, 1927 in Albany, Georgia, Dr. Gordon earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton Institute and then his Master of Science in chemistry from Tuskegee Institute. Before attending medical school, he spent several years teaching chemistry at Lincoln University and Albany State University. In 1955, he graduated from Meharry Medical College and began to serve his country on another level.

The young Dr. Gordon joined the United States Army and was stationed at Letterman

Army Hospital in San Francisco for his first internship. He later completed his surgical residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. He became the first African-American surgeon at Walter Reed, the Army's most distinguished medical center.

Dr. Gordon was sent to Vietnam where he was given command of an evacuation hospital. There he helped to develop a new, revolutionary approach to surgery which contributed to saving the lives of countless American servicemen. He was awarded three Army Commendation Medals and one Legion of Merit award for his service, and retired in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel. But Dr. Gordon's service was not over.

In 1981 he rejoined the military to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves. He served beyond the call for another decade before retiring with the rank of Colonel.

While still serving in the Reserves, Dr. Gordon practiced medicine in Albany, Georgia at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. He worked for one year as the Chief of Staff and for two terms as the chairman of the Hospital's board. In 2005, the Board awarded him the title of "Board Member Emeritus."

In 2003, Dr. Gordon joined the Hospital staff as a primary care physician at the VA Clinic. Since then he has diligently served the veteran population of Southwest Georgia. He has never forgotten the men and women who have, like him, worn the uniform of this great nation.

Whether serving in Washington, D.C., Vietnam or Albany, Dr. Gordon has performed his service with honor, courage and integrity. His lifetime of altruistic care-giving has made him a legend in our community and an inspirational figure for us all.

Today, we thank and honor Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. for his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others. On the occasion of his retirement from the field of medicine, we wish for him the joyous, healthy and tranquil life that he so richly deserves. Dr. Gordon is a healer and a patriot and we applaud his lifetime of service.

HONORING COURAGE OF FIRST
MARINES TO SCALE SUMMIT OF
MT. SURIBACHI

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of the first United States Marines to scale the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima is a small rocky island only two miles wide and four miles long located approximately 650 miles south of Tokyo, Japan. It is a volcanic island, much like the islands of my home state of Hawaii. A place where cool Pacific breezes rush over soft beaches and birds sing songs learned during lonely flights across the wide ocean.

For a brief moment in time, the Island of Iwo Jima became the central battleground between the Empire of Japan and the Allied Forces during those terrible and dark days of World War II. The Allied Forces were determined to take the island in preparation for a final attack on Japan, and the Japanese were

unbendable in their desire to defend Iwo Jima and to prevent the Allies from moving any closer to the main islands of Japan.

On February 19, 1945, approximately 70,000 American and other Allied Forces and 22,000 Japanese soldiers locked themselves in a horrific battle that would begin the final phase of the War in the Pacific. Entrenched in a series of interlocking caves, blockhouses, and pillboxes, the Japanese fought with determination to defend their island. Debarking off a naval armada of more than 450 ships, the Allies, led by the United States, brought the full weight of their highly trained and battle-tested troops to bear with the determined goal of taking the rocky island no matter what the cost. The battle for Iwo Jima would be one of the fiercest conflicts of the Second World War. 6,821 Marines were killed in action, and 19,217 Marines were wounded. Of the 22,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived.

On February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle, Marines from the 5th Division were ordered to ascend the slopes of Mt. Suribachi, the main peak controlling the island. Four Marine squads worked their way up the mountain and, at 10:30 a.m., the officer in charge, 1st Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, along with the platoon leader, Sergeant Ernest Thomas, and Sergeant Henry Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Radioman, Private First Class Raymond E. Jacobs, Private James R. Michels, Private Philip L. Ward, and Corpsman, PhMac John H. Bradley, raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi.

Today, when our Nation remembers the brave U.S. Marines of Iwo Jima, we often visualize the commanding bronze statue resting on the banks of the Potomac River. Most Americans do not realize that this memorial actually depicts the second, much larger flag that was raised on Mt. Suribachi, signaling the courage and determination of the United States to all on Iwo Jima and at sea.

In my home state of Hawaii, the Iwo Jima USMC Memorial Association, Inc. is working to raise the funds necessary to build a memorial to recognize the American Marines who raised the first American flag on Mt. Suribachi. I applaud their efforts, and hope that every citizen across the Nation will support those groups dedicated to recognizing the courage of American Marines everywhere.

DOLA MINERS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday was the 43th anniversary of the Dola, WV mine disaster that took the lives of 22 miners. On Thursday, April 25, 1963, Adam Aldridge, Gunther Bardorrek, William Bullough, Kenneth Burnside, Ralph Cado, Delbert Chapman, Carsie Crayton, Dorsey Fincham, William Fowler, George Grogg, Roy Hanna, Glen Haight, Harold Haight, Denzil Hawkinberry, Roy Kerns, James Lester, William Maxwell, Ralph McCloy, John Reed, Ralph Smith, Raymond Swiger, and Robert Welch lost their lives in a methane gas explosion at Clinchfield Coal Company's Compass No. 2 Mine.

Today, flags and flower arrangements line headstones of the fallen miners in family